

# **MIRRORED VOLUME REPLICATION METHOD, APPARATUS, AND SYSTEM**

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A secondary volume of a mirrored volume pair is replicated by suspending the mirroring operations, associating a selected volume identifier with the secondary volume, replicating the secondary volume to a backup volume, and associating the original secondary volume identifier with the backup volume. In some embodiments the original secondary volume identifier is written to a hidden field on the secondary volume and the hidden field is copied to the backup volume identifier field after the replication. In some embodiments the actions of suspending the mirror operations, managing the volume identifiers, replicating the secondary volume to a backup volume, synchronizing the secondary volume with the primary volume, and reestablishing the mirror pair are performed as an automated sequence. The resultant replication method is less costly and error prone because it may be created by an automated process rather than manual commands issued by a system administrator.